

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02302 141022Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----141025Z 130500 /20

P R 140922Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4023
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

S E C R E T BEIRUT 2302

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, LE, US, IS, SY
SUBJECT: CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS

REF: (A) SECTO 4023, (B) BEIRUT 2283, (C) BEIRUT 2218

1. CHARGE CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS MORNING MAY 13 TO BRIEF HIM ON CARTER-ASAD MEETING AS AUTHORIZED REF A. BOUTROS, WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM 10-DAY TRIP IN EUROPE, SAID PRESIDENT SARKIS HAD TOLD HIM OF AMBASSADOR'S RECENT CALL (REF C) AND THEIR DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT. BOUTROS WAS THEREFORE HAPPY TO HAVE THIS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH HE COULD RELAY TO THE PRESIDENT.

2. IN BRIEF DISCUSSION OF CARTER-ASAD MEETING, BOUTROS COMMENTED THAT QUESTION OF TRADE AND TRAVEL ACROSS BORDERS THAT MIGHT BE ESTABLISHED AS A RESULT OF A PEACE SETTLEMENT WAS LIKELY TO BECOME THE MAIN ISSUE. HE ALSO NOTED ASAD'S REFERENCE TO REPATRIATION FOR PALESTINIANS AND WONDERED IF THIS INCLUDED PRE-1967 REFUGEES. IF SO, IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT POINT FOR THE ISRAELIS TO HANDLE. IN HIS VIEW, ALL PRE-1967 REFUGEES WOULD HAVE TO BE COMPENSATED, NOT REPATRIATED.

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BOUTROS REMARKED THAT ASAD WAS A WISE MAN WHO WOULD NOT PROMISE MORE THAN HE COULD DELIVER AND WOULD NOT "GO TOO FAR." BOUTROS ALSO SAID THAT HE WAS MORE OR LESS EXPECTING EVERYTHING WHICH WAS SAID AT THE MEETING, BUT HE WAS NEVERTHELESS VERY GREATEFUL TO HAVE THESE DETAILS AND WOULD PASS THEM ON TO SARKIS. HE REMARKED THAT HE WAS DISTURBED BY THE TENDENCY OF THE PRESS TO TAKE

THE SMALLEST SIGN OF PROGRESS TOWARDS A SETTLEMENT
AS AN INDICATION THAT ALL THE PROBLEMS HAD BEEN SOLVED.
HE HAD CAUTIONED AGAINST SUCH OVER-OPTIMISM IN AN
INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN LE MONDE ON MAY 12.

3. BOUTROS THEN ASKED IF WE KNEW THE SOURCE OF RECENT
PRESS REPORTS THAT SARKIS WOULD BE VISITING THE UNITED
STATES SOON (SEE REF B). CHARGE REPLIED WE DID NOT; THEY
CERTAINLY DID NOT COME FROM US. WE AGREED THEY WERE
SPECULATION BASED ON FACT THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WAS
MEETING WITH LEADERS OF OTHER STATES IN THE AREA AND
BOTH OF US WOULD SIMPLY DECLINE TO COMMENT IF THIS
SUBJECT WERE RAISED WITH US BY THE PRESS.

4. COMMENTING ON HIS EUROPEAN TRIP, FOREIGN
MINISTER SAID HE HAD FOUND IT WORTHWHILE. HE HAD GOTTEN
ALL HE REALLY EXPECTED FROM THE EEC IN TERMS OF
COMMITMENTS TO FINANCE RECONSTRUCTION AND
DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN LEBANON, AND HE HAD ALSO HAD
OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH A NUMBER OF EUROPEAN
STATESMEN AND BRING LEBANON'S PROBLEMS TO THEIR ATTENTION.

5. BOUTROS ALSO MENTIONED THAT HE HAD BEEN DISTURBED
BY ARAFAT'S SPEECH ON JUNBLATT COMMEMORATION DAY
(MAY 1) IN WHICH ARAFAT DECLARED THAT THE PALESTINIANS
WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT IN
LEBANON. THIS KIND OF INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL LEBANESE
POLITICAL AFFAIRS WAS COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE, HE
SAID. IT WAS FOR THIS REASON THAT HE HAD MADE A FEW
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TART COMMENTS URGING THAT PALESTINIANS IMPLEMENT
THE CAIRO ACCORD IN HIS ARRIVAL STATEMENT ON MAY 11.
(IN L'ORIENT OF MAY 10, BOUTROS WAS QUOTED AS HAVING
TOLD "FRANCE-INTER" THAT "WE NEED TO KNOW IF THE PLO
WILL STOP CERTAIN ACTIVITIES IN LEBANON WHICH CAN
IRRITATE THE LEBANESE OR EXPOSE THEM TO DANGER
WITHOUT ANY POSITIVE EFFECTS OR PROFIT TO THE
PALESTINIAN CAUSE.")
LANE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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